

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Friday, March 20, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Yadkin, State of North Carolina, met in Recessed Session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Yadkin County Human Resources Building located at 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, NC on March 20, 2020 at 9:00am.

Present were:

Chairman Kevin Austin
Vice Chairman David Moxley
Commissioner Gilbert Hemric
Commissioner Marion Welborn

Absent were:

Commissioner Frank Zachary

Staff present: County Attorney, Ed Powell; County Manager, Lisa Hughes; Clerk to the Board, Tanya Gentry; Assistant County Manager, Drew Hinkle; and Finance Officer, Lindsey Cearlock.

Chairman Austin called the recessed Meeting back into Session on March 20, 2020 at 9:03am.

Human Services Update

Jessica Wall addressed the Board. There have been 23 Yadkin County residents tested for coronavirus and 10 of the test results have come back as negative. The other test results are still pending. Two of the tests went to the State lab and the other tests went to LabCorp. There are no positive cases in Yadkin County. North Carolina has 97 positive cases in 22 counties. There have been no coronavirus deaths in North Carolina. The United States has 7,087 positive cases and there have been 97 deaths. A hotline number and an email address have been set up for people to contact Human Services with any questions they have about the coronavirus. They have received calls from people with questions about potential exposures, whether or not they should get tested, and how they can get tested. People also want clarification on what the Executive Orders allow and don't allow, especially the Order that concerns restaurants and bars. Some people have reported mass gatherings. Human Services is sharing those reports with the Sheriff's Office. There was a meeting this week to talk about PPE prioritization. The Medical Clinic has three coronavirus test kits. Vice Chairman Moxley asked about outside seating at restaurants. If a restaurant with outside seating sells carry-out food, can people sit at the outside tables to eat their food? Jessica Wall said a restaurant's staff cannot serve people sitting at the outside tables. If people purchase carry-out food she thinks the people can choose to sit at the outside tables to eat. People sitting at outside tables need to follow the mass gathering rule and the social distancing guidelines. The Board discussed it. Some interpretations of the Executive Order say people can eat carry-out food at a restaurants outside seating and some interpretations say people cannot do that. County staff will review the Executive Order pertaining to restaurants. Only what is in the Executive Order can be enforced. If it doesn't prohibit people from eating their carry-out food at a restaurants outside seating then people can choose to do that.

Website Updates

County Manager Hughes addressed the Board. There is information on the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the County's website. Information on the County's operations and links to other sources of information on the coronavirus can also be found there. The list of restaurants that are open and offering carry-out, drive-thru, and delivery services will be placed there.

Appointed Boards and Committees

The Board of Commissioners has the authority to cancel the meetings held by the Boards and Committees that they appoint. Those Board and Committees are: the Board of Equalization and Review, the Planning Board, the Board of Adjustment, the Watershed Board, the Human Services Advisory Committee, and the Aging & Planning Committee. The Board of Commissioners discussed it. The Chairman of each of those Boards and Committees is the best person to make decisions on whether or not their meetings should be held. Each of those Boards and Committees have different meeting schedules. The Chairman knows what is on the agenda and whether or not it can be addressed at a later time. **Commissioner Welborn made a motion**

to grant the Chairman of those individual Boards and Committees the authority to make a decision on whether to hold or cancel their meetings. Vice Chairman Moxley second.

Vote: 4/0.

Joint Meeting with the Board of Education

County Manager Hughes and Dr. Martin discussed the Joint Meeting of the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education. There is no business that needs to be discussed at this time so County Manager Hughes recommended the meeting be postponed until further notice. The Board discussed it and the consensus was to go ahead and postpone the meeting.

Board of Commissioners Meetings

The IT Director, Dale Ring, has been looking into how the Board of Commissioners meetings can be held electronically if that is needed in the future. A camera can be mounted on the ceiling in the back of the room so the meetings can be livestreamed. If the meetings are recorded, the two most recent recordings can be stored on the County's website. Virtual meetings can be done through software, like GoToMeeting or Zoom. The Commissioners have iPads and the laptops that are used at the meetings can be setup so the Commissioners can take them home if they need to. The Board discussed it and they want Dale Ring to work on getting something in place that will allow the Board of Commissioners meetings to be held electronically. There will need to be a way for the public to make public comments if meetings are held electronically.

Support Local Restaurants

County Manager Hughes addressed the Board. The Governor's Executive Order limits the restaurants to only providing take-out, drive-thru, and delivery services. That is going to have a negative impact on the County's locally owned restaurants. The County wants to support those restaurants so lunch is being provided for one of the County's departments on a rotating schedule. The larger departments will be split into different days. For example, Human Services is a large department so their upstairs staff will be provided with lunch one day and their downstairs staff will be provided with lunch on a different day. The food will be purchased from the restaurants on a rotating basis. It is important for the County, as a governmental unit, to do everything possible to support the local restaurants. The upstairs Human Services staff has been provided with lunch. The restaurant was very appreciative of getting the business and the employees were grateful for the food. County Manager Hughes received thank you cards and emails from some of the employees. Currently there is a rotation schedule set up to purchase lunch through April 1st.

YVEDDI Update

County Manager Hughes addressed the Board. YVEDDI provides a lot of service to the County's senior population. YVEDDI is practicing social distancing. People who are systematic are asked to not enter the building. They are conducting as much business as possible through emails and phone calls. They are still providing the home delivered meals. They are trying to get frozen meals so they can give the people a week's worth of meals at a time instead of having to deliver the meals to the people every day. They are also trying to get frozen meals for the congregate meal sites. They are continuing to do daily meal deliveries right now because they are having trouble getting the frozen meals. They are also still providing transportation that is medically necessary.

County Response

County Manager Hughes went over a draft copy of the Yadkin County COVID-19 Emergency Operations Plan with the Board. It is broken up into Phases. The County is currently operating at Phase 1. Citizens are being encouraged to conduct business with County personnel through email, phone, and online applications. If the County goes into Phase 2 that is when teleworking and/or employee rotation schedules will be put into effect where appropriate. If the County goes into Phase 3 that is when the County offices would close to the public and some of the services would be provided on an emergency basis only. Kim Harrell said the State DHHS Office is looking into ways that DSS services can be provided to people with as little contact as possible. Some of the deadlines have been extended to try and help keep the number of people coming in to the office as low as possible. Each Department Director has put together a departmental plan and identified the employees they would like to be able to work from home if that becomes necessary. A Teleworking Policy is being worked on. It will include an agreement the employee will have to sign that pertains to the work that they will be expected to complete while they are working from home.

Currently 74 counties have declared a State of Emergency. Chairman Austin asked if any of the Commissioners or County staff knew of a reason that Yadkin County should declare a State of Emergency at this time. No one recommended a State of Emergency be declared.

Blue Cross Blue Shield has requested some changes to the County's contract. The County can choose to opt in or opt out of the changes. If the County opts in it would waive the member cost sharing requirements and pay 100% of the COVID-19 related tests that are consistent with CDC requirements, waive prior authorization requirements for diagnostic testing that is medically necessary and ordered by a physician consistent with CDC requirements, and waive prior authorization requirements for services medically necessary and ordered by a physician consistent with CDC requirements. The Board discussed it and the consensus of the Board was to opt in.

Employee Wellness Clinic

County Manager Hughes addressed the Board. The Employee Wellness Clinic does not have the coronavirus (COVID-19) test kits so testing cannot be done there. The Wellness Clinic can test for the flu. If the flu test comes back negative, and the Wellness Clinic believes a coronavirus test should be taken, they can refer the person to the Yadkin County Medical Clinic or to his or her regular medical provider.

Vice Chairman Moxley made a motion to recess the meeting until Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 9:00am. Commissioner Welborn second.

Vote: 4/0.



Prepared by Tanya Gentry
Clerk to the Board



Kevin Austin, Chairman
Yadkin County Board of Commission

4/20/2020

Date approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners